

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, U

SUBJECT: MARCH 29 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. THAILAND

FIVE MIL OFFICERS ACCUSED LEADING ABORTIVE COUP WILL STAND
MIL TRIAL AFTER ROC REFUSES ACCEPT THEM AS EXILES (UPI,
CHITRIB). DEP SUPREME CMDR THINKS FORMER POLITICIANS
INVOLVED IN PLOT. ADDS AUTHORITIES KNEW ABOUT COUP PLOT IN
ADVANCE--BUT DECIDED NOT DO ANYTHING, SINCE REALIZED WAS
"SMALL MATTER" (REUTER, CSM; ANDELMAN, NYT). THAI MIL
ORDERS ARREST/QUESTIONING OVER 100 OFFICERS/CIVILIANS
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RE WKEND'S ABORTIVE COUP (REUTER BANGKOK).

2. BURMA

PM U SEIN WIN/2 OTHER MINS RESIGN IN CABINET RESHUFFLE.
ALL EARLIER CRITICIZED AT BSPP CONGRESS FOR FAILING ADHERE
TO GUIDELINES/POLICIES IN NATL ECON PLANS (REUTER RANGOON).

3. INDOCHINA

PEAGAM (NYT) QUOTES PL GOVT THAT FORMER KING GROWING

VEGETABLES/LEARNING MARXISM-LENINISM RUDIMENTS AT REMOTE

NE LAOS "REEDUCATION" CENTER. ADDS DISCLOSURE SHOCKED
MANY BUT NO TROUBLE EXPECTED, DUE TRADITION PASSIVITY
AMONG LAO.

VN DEFMIN GIAP GOES TO GDR AFTER 18-DAY USSR VISIT (WP).

4. INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

ABOUT 1000 VIET REFUGEES IN FRG HAVE TOUGH TIME DESPITE
HELP FROM GOVT/RELIGIOUS BODIES. MAIN GRUMBLES ARE
LANGUAGE/WEATHER (REUTER, CSM).

5. INDOCHINA/CHINA

DOS SAYS HAS NO INFO ON HK REPORT OF FIGHTING LAST YR BETW
PRC/NVN (REUTER WASHINGTON).

6. CHINA

PRC HAS DIVERTED WATERS FROM HANKIANG RIVER IN ORDER SAVE
SOME 60,000 ACRES KWANGTUN FARMLAND FROM DROUGHT, ACCORD-
ING HK'S "TA KUNG PAO" (AP HK, LAT 3/27).

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WSJ'S KRAMER (HK) SEES QUESTION WHETHER DROUGHT WILL CAUSE
PRC MAKE GRAIN PURCHASES/CAUSE WORLD GRAIN PRICES RISE.
NONE CERTAIN HOW SEVERE DROUGHT IS, BUT ALL AGREE IS
SEVERE AND MAY BE DEVASTATING IF CONTINUES. HOWEVER, TIME-
LY RAINS COULD BRING "SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERY." USDA EXPERTS
NOTE PRC ASSESSMENT GRAIN NEEDS TIED MORE TO FALL HARVEST
THAN SPRING HARVEST NOW AFFECTED BY DROUGHT; BUT ONE
ANALYST SAYS TOTAL GRAIN IMPORTS THIS YR COULD BE 100-
300,000 TONS. NOTES POOR FALL WEATHER, TRANSPORT/POL
PROBLEMS ALREADY HAVE FORCED PRC TO GRAIN MKT/MAKE SUB-
STANTIAL W/DRAWALS STRATEGIC STOCKPILE/CUT RICE RATIONS.

7. KOREA

OBERDORFER (WP) REPORTS PRES (3/28) APPROVED NEARLY
2 BILLION DOLS MIL SALES TO NATO/ME COUNTRIES/SK. ADDS
DECISIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON/CONGRESS NOTIFIED.

SFO APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS LOWER COURT RULING PLACING
5 YOUNG ADULT MOON DISCIPLES IN PARENTS' CUSTODY FOR
30 DAYS, BUT FORBIDS "DEPROGRAMMING" ATTEMPTS (LEDBETTER,
NYT).

8. PHILIPPINES

TRIAL OF 4 FILIPINA NURSES ACCUSED OF POISONING VA
HOSPITAL PATIENTS OPENED MONDAY WITH PROSECUTION WARNING
JURY ITS DECISION WILL BE DIFFICULT ONE (REUTER 3/28).

WIDESPREAD UNEASINESS REPORTED AMONG CHRISTIANS IN
SOUTHERN MINDANAO AS RESULT OF MARCOS' SATURDAY PROCLAMA-
TION GRANTING AUTONOMY IN AREAS WHERE MOSLEMS HAVE BEEN
IN REBELLION AGAINST CENTRAL GOVT. COTABATO MAYOR SAID
DURING MANILA VISIT THAT FEARS HAVE ARISEN EVEN AMONG
SOME MOSLEMS WHO HAD NOT JOINED INSURGENCY (NYT SPEC).

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9. FIJI

NATIONALIST PARTY ADVOCATING POLICY OF "FIJI FOR THE
FIJIANS" MAKING FIRST DETERMINED EFFORT CAPTURE PARLIA-
MENTS SEATS (REUTER NYT).

10. ANP

CHI S-T'S CLOHERTY/OWENS (3/25) REPORT THAT WILL COST US
TAXPAYERS 20 MILLION DOLS TO MAKE ENIWETOK ATOLL HABITABLE
SO 400 NATIVES MOVED OFF ISLAND SOME 30 YRS AGO CAN RETURN.
SAY BECAUSE US WAITED SO LONG TO FULFILL PROMISE, PRICE
TAG WILL BE HIGHER AND NATIVES WILL INHERIT SOME MODERN
HOUSING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

HOUSTON OIL AND MINERALS CORP SAYS IT HAS RECEIVED WORD
FROM QUEENSLAND GOVT AUTHORITIES THAT FIRM BEING GRANTED
PROSPECTING OPPORTUNITIES IN OAKY CREEK AREA, WHERE
ESTIMATED THERE ARE NEARLY 390 MILLION TONS METALLURIGICAL
COAL RESERVES (NYT).

11. JAPAN

JAPAN POWER CO REPORTS US HAS AGREED TO RESUMPTION
JAPAN'S TRANSFER USED NUKE FUEL TO UK FOR REPROCESSING.
CO OFFICIALS SAID NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN WHETHER USG
ACTION MEANT CHANGE IN US POL ON SPENT NUKE FUELS (UPI,
NYT; REUTER TOKYO 3/28; WP).

AGRIC/FORESTRY MIN SUZUKI TOLD DIET 3/29 TO EXPECT
GOJ INTRODUCE BILLS CALLING FOR EXTENTION JAPAN'S TERRI-
TORIAL WATERS FROM 3 TO 12 MILES/200-MILE FISHING ZONE.
TERRITORIAL WATER BILL TO BE PRESENTED 3/30; FISHING
ZONE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED AT NEXT DIET SESSION,
SUBJECT TO LOS CONF DEVELOPMENTS BETW MAY-JULY (REUTER
TOKYO).

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LAT (3/27) REPORTS SOCIALIST PARTY CHRMN SABURO EDA'S RESIGNATION TO FORM NEW PARTY. EDA HOPES APPEAL TO GROWING BODY VOTERS WHO SUPPORT NO POL PARTY/WILL TRY FIELD AT LEAST 9 OTHER CANDIDATES UNDER NEW PARTY BANNER WHEN HE RUNS FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION IN JULY.

LAT'S JAMESON (3/28) WRITES ON FUKUDA'S APPEARANCE 3/27 ON ABC-TV'S "ISSUES AND ANSWERS." OCCASION MARKS 1ST TIME PM OFFERED CRITICISM PRES' POLICY OF SPEAKING PUBLICLY FOR HUMAN RTS. QUOTES FUKUDA THAT IF "UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCES" CREATED BY "RAISING ONE'S VOICE," "I THINK THAT WOULD BE A MISTAKE." ADDED JAPAN WOULD MAKE NO COMMENTS ABOUT HUMAN RTS SUPPRESSION IN SK/USSR "BECAUSE OF DELICATE DIPLOMATIC CONSIDERATIONS." FUKUDA NONCOMMITTAL WHEN ASKED IF HE FEARED CARTER'S CRITICISM OF USSR MIGHT INJURE E-W DETENTE. PM ALSO DISCLOSED CARTER CONSIDERING BUILDUP US AIR FORCES IN SK AS GROUND TROOPS WITHDRAWN, THO JAMESON CITES ADMIN OFFICIAL WHO SAYS OTHER OPTIONS EQUALLY LIKELY.

JAPANESE SHIPBUILDERS' FON ORDERS DROPPED 38.4 PCT IN 1ST 11 MOS FY'76 FROM FY'75 LEVEL (AP, NYT).

YEN CONTINUES RISE ON TOKYO FOREX MART, PUSHING DOLLAR TO LOWEST LEVEL IN NEARLY 3 YRS (REUTER TOKYO). IN NY, MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST REPORTED JAPANESE FOREX MART INTERVENTION TO MODERATE YEN'S RISE IN 1ST TWO MOS '77 TOTALED ABOUT 200 MIL DOLS (NYT).

CALIF GOV BROWN EXPECTS SUPPLY LIST "MOST PREFERRED SITES" FOR AUTO ASSEMBLY PLANT TO TOP JAPANESE GOVT/INDUSTRY LEADERS IN ABOUT 2 WKS. ALTHO FUKUDA DID NOT PROMISE JAPANESE AUTO PLANT FOR CALIF, INDICATED "STRONG INTEREST," APPOINTED CABINET MEMBER TO COMMUNICATE W/JAPAN'S AUTO MFRS ABOUT STATE'S DESIRE HAVE PLANT. UNCLASSIFIED

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BROWN HAS SPECIAL INTEREST IN HONDA, DUE ITS REPUTATION FOR FUEL EFFICIENCY/LOW POLLUTION. GOV PERSONALLY CALLED HONDA PRES LATE LAST YR TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN HONDA PLANT (ANDERSON, LAT 3/26).

SONY AMERICA UNVEILS 6 NEW BROADCAST PRODUCTS AT WASHINGTON'S NATL ASSN OF BROADCASTERS CONVENTION (REUTER 3/28).

KANSAI ELECTRIC TERMINATES AGREEMENT FOR US DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS W/CITIBANK. AFTER 4/30, INDIVIDUALS WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TRANSFER KANSAI ADRS IN US (NYT).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

12. THAILAND

IN BANGKOK, MCARTHUR (LAT 3/28) NOTES RTG EMBARRASSED SINCE NO COUNTRY WOULD TAKE COUP PLOTTERS. SAYS DELAY COULD CAUSE PRISONERS MIL INVESTIGATION/TRIAL/POSSIBLE DEATH PENALTY, THO LATTER UNLIKELY. SEES SIGNS RULING MIL COUNCIL SPLIT/MAY BE HAVING 2ND THOUGHTS RE SAFE-PASSAGE PROMISE FOR 5 COUP PLOTTERS; MANY THAIS OFFENDED BY REPORTED USE BUDDHIST MONKS' ROBES IN COUP ATTEMPT.

13. INDOCHINA

FLETCHER SCHOOL'S CAMERON (WSJ) SAYS HANOI WANTS ACCEPTANCE/LEGITIMIZATION OF VICTORY, NEEDS EXTERNAL HELP/TRADE THAT CAN BE PROVIDED BY US. OPINES BENEFITS TO SRV FROM "NORMALIZATION" ARE OBVIOUS; HARD FIND COMPARABLE BENEFITS FOR US. REVIEWS HANOI'S VIOLATION MOST C-F PROVISIONS WHILE DEMANDING US FULFILL "OBLIGATION" UNDER ACCORDS TO PROVIDE AID. STATES UNDERSTANDABLE THAT HANOI WANTS HAVE IT BOTH WAYS, BUT ASKS WHY US SHOULD ENCOURAGE "CHARADE."
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CAMERON FINDS NO COMPELLING REASON WHY US SHOULD CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY SELECTED PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT THAT OTHER SIDE VIOLATED IN LETTER/SPIRIT, NOW INTERPRETS EXCLUSIVELY IN OWN INTEREST. DETECTS FEW SIGNS US PUBLIC OPINION MANDATES RAPPROCHEMENT W/HANOI; ARGUES VS US HAVING "MORAL" OBLIGATION NORMALIZE RELS; DETECTS LITTLE INTL PRESSURE FOR US DEAL DIRECTLY W/HANOI. ADDS NORMALIZATION MAY UPSET DELICATE EQUILIBRIUM SEA.

CAMERON BELIEVES FOOLISH LET CONCERN FOR MIA INFO DOMINATE US POLICY; DOESN'T THINK US BUSINESS COULD GAIN MANY BENEFITS THRU TRADE W/VN. ADVISES USG: DON'T RUSH INTO ANYTHING; AVOID MAKING MIA INFO CENTRAL ISSUE IN US POSITION; RECOGNIZE DIFFERENTIATION BETW BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL RELS--MAKES NO SENSE KEEP VN OUT OF UN; NO REASON WHY US SHOULD CONDUCT POLICY TOWARD VN AS POSTURE APOLOGY/PETULANCE--FOCUS MUST BE ON PRAGMATIC PRESENT/FUTURE REALITIES.

CHIS-T (3/24) COMMENDS PRES FOR WARMING RELS W/VN. SAYS CARTER HAS DONE MORE THAN PREDECESSORS TO RESTORE NORMALCY AFTER UGLY VN STRIFE.

DICKENSON (WSTAR 3/28) DISCUSSES QUESTION PRES STYLE/SUBSTANCE. BELIEVES CARTER SERIOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE ESTABLISH-

ING DIPL RELS W/CUBA/VN. NOTES AT NEWS CONF HE DISPLAYED WILLINGNESS DO BUSINESS W/VN WHEN CHOSE MINIMIZE ITS

STRONG DESIRE TIE MIA HELP/POSSIBLE DIPL RELS TO US ECON AID. ADDS PRES SHOWING FLEXIBILITY IN WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE W/HANOI IF CONVINCED SRV MAKING GOOD FAITH EFFORT GET COMPLETE MIA ACCOUNTING. OPINES DEMONSTRATES WAR UNNECESSARY/PRES WANTS PUT PERIOD BEHIND US.

13. JAPAN
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NYT'S HALLORAN (3/28) TERMS CARTER-FUKUDA MTG "QUIETEST" BETW JAPANESE PM/US PRES "IN AT LEAST EIGHT YEARS." NOTES FUKUDA RECEIVED W/COURTESY, BUT MINIMUM POMP. TALKS BUSINESSLIKE/ISSUES KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE/NEWS COVERAGE ONLY MODEST. NOTES NEW ISSUES--HUMAN RTS/KOREAN WITHDRAWAL/RELS W/PRC, ROC, VN--REPLACED "NIXON SHOCK" IN ECONOMICS/DIFFERENCES IN CHINA POLICY/RETURN OF OKINAWA. IN ADDITION, US NOW RECOGNIZES "THAT JAPAN'S ECONOMIC MUSCLE COUNTS," AND THAT TRADE PROBLEMS "ENDEMIC" WHEN VOLUME SO HIGH. ADMIN OFFICIALS ADD TRANQUILITY DURING FUKUDA VISIT ALSO DUE FACT MANY ISSUES BETW JAPAN/US ARE COMPLICATED ECONOMIC ONES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IN MULTI-LATERAL CONFS, SUCH AS LONDON ECON SUMMIT.

LAT (3/27) CALLS SUMMIT "FRIENDLY AND PRODUCTIVE AFFAIR," BUT NOTES GRAVE DISAGREEMENT/NO PROGRESS ON NUKE FUEL REPROCESSING ISSUE. CONCEDES JAPAN POSES "SPECIAL PROBLEMS" FOR ADMIN'S POLICY, BUT BELIEVES CARTER POLICY RIGHT/SHOULD BE PUSHED "FIRMLY THOUGH TACTFULLY AS POSSIBLE." CONTENTS USING PLUTONIUM AS REACTOR FUEL MAKES NO ECONOMIC SENSE, AND WHEN JAPANESE EXPERTS TAKE CLOSE LOOK AT ECONOMICS OF SITUATION, "WILL LIKELY LOSE THEIR OWN ENTHUSIASM FOR REPROCESSING."

KANABAYSHI (WSJ) REVIEWS PROGRESS IN JAPAN'S SPACE PROGRAM/CONTROVERSY NOW WAGING BETW THOSE WHO INSIST ON TECHNOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE FROM US AND THOSE WHO BELIEVE US AID STILL NEEDED. NOTES WHATEVER DEBATE'S OUTCOME, FACT REMAINS SPACE PROGRAM HAS HAD BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON TANEGASHIMA ISLAND, FROM WHICH ROCKETS LAUNCHED--INCREASED TAX REVENUES/MORE TOURISTS/BETTER ROADS.

CSM (3/28) TAKES NOTE JAPAN'S ABILITY COMPETE IN SPACE W/US, USSR. REMARKS NO LIKELIHOOD SPACE VENTURES WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE USED FOR ANYTHING BUT PEACEFUL PURPOSES. ADDS "SPACE CLUB" BETTER BE READY FOR SOME "STIMULATING COMPETITION" FROM JAPAN. CONCLUDES JAPAN'S FRIENDS/ALLIES RELY ON IT KEEP VENTURES "FREE OF ANY MILITARY EXPLOITATION,"

IN SAME MANNER JAPAN HAS RESISTED TEMPTATION IN NUCLEAR/
OTHER INDUSTRIAL FIELDS.

LAT'S JAMESON (TOKYO 3/27) WRITES ON JAPAN'S ECONOMIC
SURVIVAL, WHICH HE STATES IS TIED TO INTERDEPENDENCE.
CITES FUKUDA'S REMARKS TO SAME EFFECT, POINTS OUT SOME-
TIMES PHENOMENON SO COMPLICATED NOT ALL NATIONS REALIZE
EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE INVOLVED. REVIEWS JAPANESE
DOMESTIC SITUATION/FACT MORE "WESTERNIZATION" OCCURRING
ALL THE TIME. JAPANESE MFRS LOOK FORWARD TO DAY WHEN
SALARIES MATCH US LEVELS FOR SOME HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS.
ECON PLANNERS HOPE FOR US-MODELED ECON, HEAVY IN SERVICE/
"INFORMATION" INDUSTRIES, LESS MFRING DAILY HOUSEHOLD
GOODS.

12. KOREA

CSM BELIEVES "NOT ENOUGH" THAT ROK RELEASED SOME CONVICTED
INTELLECTUALS/OPPOSITION POL LEADERS DUE THEIR AGE.
SAYS KIM DAE JUNG'S WORST CRIME WAS RUNNING AGAINST
PARK IN '71. ADDS HIS INCARCERATION/THAT OF OTHER
INTELLECTUALS, IS "POOR TESTIMONY" TO SK'S PROGRESS
TOWARD POL FREEDOM. CONCLUDES SK'S IMPORTANCE TO US
MIL SECURITY SHOULD NOT REQUIRE/USTIFY WASHINGTON'S
"RELATIVE SILENCE" ABOUT DISSIDENTS. SEES OPPORTUNITY
FOR CARTER/VANCE KEEP UP PUBLIC/PVT PRESSURE FOR FAIR
TREATMENT "THESE UNFORTUNATE INDIVIDUALS."

NYT FINDS DOJ INVESTIGATION RE ACTIVITIES TONGSUN PARK/
OTHER ROK AGENTS IN US SADLY LACKING, DUE "UNCOMMONLY
DIFFICULT" TASK PREPARING CASE THAT COULD BE PROVED
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TO JURY. SEES HOPE, HOWEVER, IN 2 HOUSE CMTE PROBES,
NOW IN PRELIMINARY STAGES. STATES WHILE THESE INQUIRIES
"MAY PRODUCE NO COMPARABLE SENSATIONS," THEY WILL SERVE
"USEFUL PURPOSE" IF THEY MAKE CLEAR SCOPE/NATURE SKOREAN
LOBBYING OPN. CONCLUDES "CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS MR.
PARK" CANNOT BE ALLOWED "FADE AWAY" INTO "MINOR TAX
MATTER" UNTIL FULL ACCOUNTING PUBLICLY RENDERED.
CHRISTOPHER

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